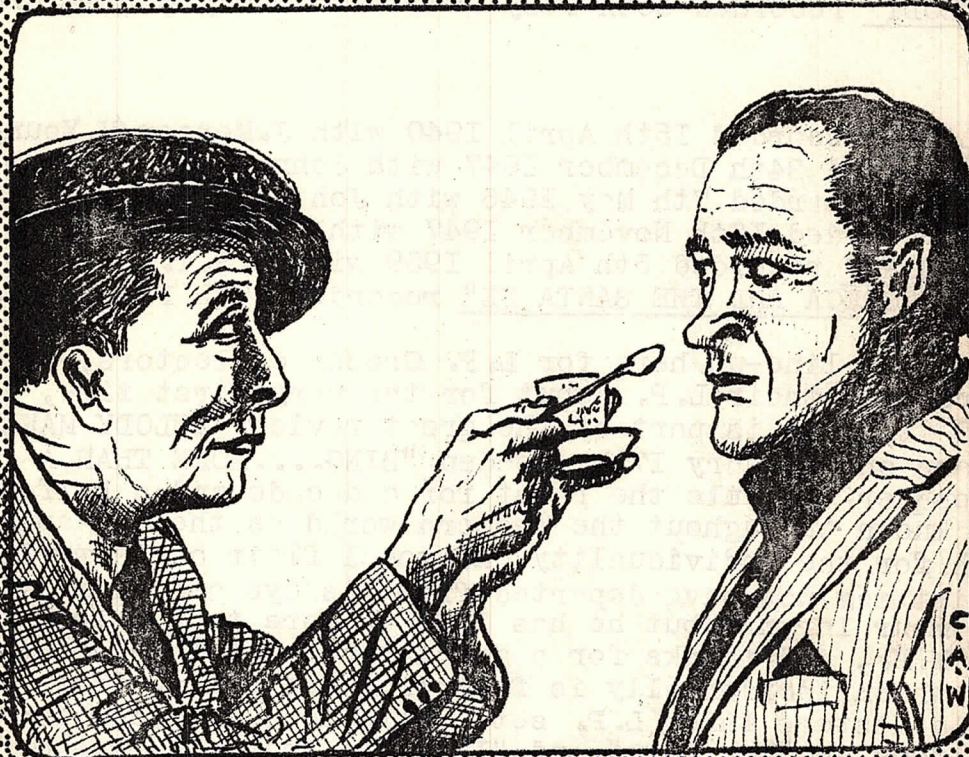


Crosby Post

APRIL
1962

NO: 3 VOL. I

NEW SERIES



ROAD TO
HONG KONG!

THE GROANER

IN

THE GROOVE.

Crosby Post's bi-monthly review of Bing's latest releases.

SPECIAL.

Decca "ACE OF HEARTS" Vol. 2 AH I7.
"OLD MASTERS" 12" L.P. 23s. 3d.

SIDE 1.

"LAZY" recorded 24th May 1942 with Bob Crosby's Orchestra.
"IT'S THE TALK OF THE TOWN" recorded 29th August 1945. J. Dorsey Orch.
"WHAT'S NEW" recorded 30th June 1939 with John Scott Trotter Orch.
"IF I KNEW THEN" recorded 9th Feb 1940 with John Scott Trotter Orch.
"MY BUDDY" recorded 30th December 1940 with Victor Young's Orch.
"I AIN'T GOT NOBODY" recorded 30th July 1941 with Woody Herman W/Crs.

SIDE 2.

"MISTER MEADOWLARK" recorded 15th April 1940 with J. Mercer/V. Young Or.
"IMAGINATION" recorded 24th December 1947 with John Scott Trotter Or.
"A GIRL IN CALICO" recorded 7th May 1946 with John Scott Trotter Or.
"BUT BEAUTIFUL" recorded 13th November 1947 with Victor Young's Orch.
"AND THE ANGELS SING" recorded 5th April 1939 with J. S. T. Orch.
"ON THE ATCHISON TOPECA AND THE SANTA FE" recorded 17th Feb. 1944. J. S. T.

What a terrific line-up here for L.P. Crosby collectors, as many of these numbers make their L.P. debut for the very first time, and in case you missed it, here is part of the great review "MELODY MAKER" gave this release on February 17th, headed "BING....MORE THAN A LEGEND". "To conquer and rule the roost for a decade and a half, to be affectionately known throughout the Western world as the one and only Bing, says much for the individuality and vocal flair of Harry Lillis Crosby. The glint may now have departed from his eye and elasticity deserted his famous larynx, but he has left us more than a legend...."

How true, M.M., and thanks for a great review of this special Decca release, which incidentally is following the same pattern as the American Old Masters three L.P. set. Collectors can look forward to such great items as "How Soon" and "I'll See You in My Dreams" on volume three of Old Masters.....over to you Decca!!

We go to press with this issue with the great news that American Decca are issuing no less than 15...yes, 15 Crosby 12" L.P.'s to salute Bing's film years....from more than 40 Bing Crosby films they will cover 189 songs made famous by our 'King' melody man.

British Decca have been approached by us for news of release date in this country, and club members will be kept in touch by SPECIAL NEWSLETTER if required.

HAPPY COLLECTING!

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SPECIAL.....An EXCLUSIVE article by Stanley White will appear in the JUNE issue of CROSBY POST. The Editor has read this great piece of writing and really enjoyed every word. Pay your sub. up now, and don't miss the June issue!

BING, BUDDY COLE and ROSEMARY CLOONEY

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by STAN WHITE.

Buddy Cole meant little to me until I heard him providing the backing for Bing on the Autobiography LPs, and earlier items of the 50's such as "Some Fine Old Chesnuts" and singles like "Swanee" and "In a Little Spanish Town". What I heard of his music at that time I liked. Later I was to find that he was also well known in the popular organ world for his organ playing, and Buddy Cole has had several LPs released in America featuring him playing the large Robert Morton Theatre Pipe Organ which he had taken from a theatre and installed in his own home (he must have a large house!) Other Buddy Cole LPs feature him with his small group with Buddy playing an electronic pipeless organ, and also LPs with his orchestra. Buddy features the piano often, and when backing Bing he uses both piano and electronic organ which are both played by him. Buddy was also heard briefly on the LP from "Say One For Me", and his full orchestra backed Bing on the two golfing songs released on the Phillips single a few years ago.

The first time I have it on record of Bing mentioning Buddy is in a 1949 Philco Radio Show when Bing mentions the piano player in the orchestra as being Buddy Cole. As it turned out, Buddy in later years was to play a big role in the Crosby story by doing much of the recording and radio work which John Scott Trotter once did for Bing.

On and off for the past eight years or so, Bing has been featured in a series of regular week day radio programmes of 15 or 20 minutes duration which feature him singing songs backed by the Buddy Cole group. The current series which goes out on the entire CBS radio network on each week day, also features Rosemary Clooney with Bing.

The format of the programme is as follows: solo songs from Bing and Rosemary, solo numbers from the Buddy Cole group, plus duets between Bing and Rosemary, and quite a lot of talking in between songs on many not too serious topics between Bing, Rosemary and Bings radio announcer since the middle 1930's - Ken Carpenter. Ken, Bing and Rosemary also share the task of speaking or singing the adverts which appear throughout each programme. The songs for these radio shows are recorded in the CBS Studios in Hollywood, and a great many songs are taped at each session; these are then dubbed into each days radio programme as called for. The adverts and chatter are also dubbed into each days radio programme in the same way, only these talking sessions are not normally recorded in a studio, as they are bound to be topical and containing the latest adverts by the sponsors, and therefore cannot be "canned" for as long as the songs which can be left in store for years if call sheets do not require the songs concerned. Buddy Cole also gives a modern style swing backing to most of the numbers, a type of music which does not date, or have to change with musical tastes in general, whilst most of the songs are also of an evergreen nature. (continued over)

I am awaiting information about the actual recording of the songs from Buddy Cole, in the meantime, here is a run - down on the activities of Mr Crosby and Company when recording the talking part of these programmes. Through the kindness of a close friend of Bing, I am able to give you an almost eye witness account of what goes on.

Bing and Rosemary have worked out an almost fool-proof system of parlaying work into fun and fun into money. Periodically they sit down in some pleasant environment and turn out some weeks of twenty minute radio shows that are heard five days a week on the Columbia Broadcasting System Network. The approach to these taping sessions is informal, just as it sounds on the air. There is a script, it is true. There are also numerous commercials which Rosemary usually rattles off whilst Bing grins smugly, or stares stonily. By the time each of these meetings is ended, the floor is carpeted with pages of scripts and only the tape recorders know what they said.

One of these Crosby - Clooney get-togethers was held recently in the Clooney home in Beverly Hills. While the engineer - Jack Lattig - tested tape recorders, amplifiers, mixers and microphones, Rosemary beguiled herself with a soft drink beneath a Vlamink painting, leafing through her script. Comfortable sofas and easy

chairs stressed the pleasant atmosphere of the spacious living room. Just before Bing arrived on this day, Bill Morrow who writes the scripts and hopes they will be followed within reason, explained what he tries to capture in the writing of the scripts. "We aim this at a lady's audience" he said. "Men are allowed to listen. The tone of the conversation has to be light and we also toss in odd bits of information". Murdo MacKenzie, the director of the show, tried to look solemn at this attempt to find logic in the Crosby - Clooney antics for radio.

Among the subjects elaborated upon by Rosemary and Bing for these shows, have been: The eccentric behaviour of Salmon after a still has overflowed into their stream. Is home-made apple pie on the wane? The significance of the fact that men faint women three-to-one during Las Vegas marriages. Cuffola (non-payment) as a status symbol in dealing with British tailors. The exercise break instead of coffee during business hours.

The songs for the shows are generally taped in a studio. Once before a song, Bing said: "Friends, Mr Carpenter (Ken Carpenter the announcer), will pass among you with revival kits while we sing a song". Or, after a discussion on women's hair styles, he has said "You know this seminar is getting a bit hokey I think, Shall we abandon it?".

Wherever they are taping - and this work has been done in Palm Springs, Las Vegas, Carmel, San Francisco and Seattle - they dress in comfort. This day Rosemary was wearing a colourful pair of slacks and a summer blouse. Bing brightened the room with a pink sports shirt. "I think", said Bing as he picked up his pile of scripts for the first time, "you might call this show flexible". Rosemary, who had been furrowing her brow over commercials for one of the four sponsors, burst into hearty laughter. They do not see their scripts until shortly before each session, and neither of them bother to look at the other's lines. They try to grind out about a months supply of material at each meeting because they never know when they will be in the same city at the same time!

It was agreed at this session that they would next cross tapes in London, and this they did.

Under such conditions slips are bound to occur, but they seem to give added freshness to the shows. During this session, Rosemary taunted Bing when he had difficulty in pronouncing ichthyologist. He bided his time, eventually caught her eye at an awkward moment, disconcerted her by quick mimicry so that she lost her place. She went through several sentences before the mistake was realised. As a result, the next three or four minutes were spent in crawling around the floor, sifting through the paper drifts, trying to locate the page she had discarded prematurely.

Even the generally methodical Ken Carpenter is lured into false security by the general atmosphere of nonchalance. Once, certain that he had skipped a line, he and the others checked quickly through the script. It developed that a line had indeed been skipped. It was one of Bing's.

Each half hour or so, a roll of tape is filled, and a fresh one loaded. This is an excuse for a general period of refreshment, and a sense of awe fills the atmosphere as though another miracle has been worked. To add to the scene on this day, the children came running in from the swimming pool during these breaks. Sometimes during these breaks from recording, they postpone looking at their scripts for as long as possible, and swap information about experiences and personalities in show business. On this occasion the talk led to Marlene Dietrich. Rosemary reported that Miss Dietrich had spent much of her time slinking behind doorways and chairs. It had nothing to do with creating an exotic atmosphere. "I was fat" said Miss Dietrich.

The present CBS show's began in February 1960. There seems to be no intention of abandoning it as long as Rosemary and Bing can agree to meet somewhere for part of a day over some cool drinks and hot tape recorders.

That then, is the scene when Bing and Rosemary get together to record the talking part of their popular American radio show. As soon as possible I will try to obtain the information from Buddy Cole which will take us behind the scene at the taping of the songs in the studios.

My thanks are extended to Mr Murray Schumach for helping me to compile this side of the story. (END)

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AIR MAIL card from Mr George O'Reilly to our President:-

Dear Frank,

I am having a wonderful time here. Spent nine days in Los Angeles with the Crosby's...they are excellent hosts.

Have just received your letter of 22nd via my Secretary in Dublin. Bing has gone to Mexico for at least six weeks, and I'm afraid he will not be able to send your message.

I will write a detailed letter later when I return.

Regards to you and yours and all my friends in the club.

signed GEORGE.

ERIC GRIFFITHS TURNS THE

SPOTLIGHT ON DISCS!

Having recently moved to Blackpool, it was inevitable that after settling in I should think of the chance of fresh "junking" ground to be explored. Together with Arthur (my brother-in-law) I spied a shop with piles of old 78's. After some searching through, and we were beginning to think someone had beaten us to it, I suddenly came across an almost mint copy of "A GHOST OF A CHANCE" on Brunswick 1423, "A" Master. On the reverse of course is "JUST AN ECHO IN THE VALLEY", also "A" Master. These songs were recorded 14.10.32 and 4.11.32. Here is the "master" at the period that a lot of people prefer, and certainly these should be in everyones collection.

"A GHOST OF A CHANCE" was also issued on Columbia DB2030. The "B" master has also been issued on LP- Fontana TFR6012 and EP- 17186 amongst others. "JUST AN ECHO IN THE VALLEY" has also appeared on Columbia DB1423 and LP- Fontana TFR6000.

Re-makes of both are included in the Auto-biography LP with the Buddy Cole Trio.

NON-COMMERCIAL CORNER.

The issue by Brunswick of songs from KRAFT shows by Al Jolson reminds me of the wealth of material which could be made available to us as far as Bing is concerned. Let's hope Brunswick (or American Decca) don't forget us!!

Here are just a few examples:- "HOW COULD YOU" - "TIME ON MY HANDS", "TIME AFTER TIME" - RUMOURS ARE FLYING", "THE MOON WON'T TALK" "DOWN THE OLD GREEN RIVER" and many others.

(END)

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A letter from BOB HOPE to our Vice President Jack Manners is as follows:-

Dear Jack Manners,

Thank you for your letter. It was nice to hear from 'Dad's' Society and to know that you are giving us such support.

We are enjoying England and are seeing a bit more of it this time, living as we are in the country. Bing and I are sharing a house and living like country squires. We have our families over and they are really enjoying themselves. The weather too is so wonderful at the moment, and giving us a feeling of home. Sorry you are unable to get much of our material on T.V., but keep asking, and I am sure they will do something in the end. The "Road to Hong Kong" schedule is so tight, that we are not getting so much time for golf as we would like, but are managing to get the odd game in"

signed BOB HOPE

CROSBY POST REPORT

A bi-monthly page
of news and views
on the Crosby scene.

What happened to Reginald Dixon on his recent two weeks spell on Housewives Choice BBC Disc Spot? not a single Bing did he play!

A black mark Reg, we know Bing isn't top rated on H.C. these days but he's still very much in demand. Proof lay in the fact that the week before Reginald Dixon took over we had four out of five mornings with a "Bing". But following Reg Dixon, Brian Matthew quickly put things right with a Bing on his second morning in charge, called "I Love You Samantha".

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Our printing machine continues to provide an improved Crosby Post, and your welcome donations can still be sent to Frank Murphy.

The plans we have made for when the machine is finally been paid for are numerous and include among other things the possibility of a monthly newsletter and a larger magazine with more photos and news.

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Fred Dellar of the Frank Sinatra Club announced with great pride in Melody Maker that through two ad's in that paper they had sold over 250 copies of their 'discog' on 'the voice' we sadly recalled that our efforts to present an L.P. and E.P. discog of Bing's total U.K. output could't raise more than 50% interest by our own club members. Makes you wonder doesn't it ? Or does it ?

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Is any member interested in obtaining a six hour taping of Astronaut John H. Glenn's trip in outer space ? This is the unusual offer received by Frank Murphy recently from Mr R. Murphy 131 East 35th Street, Brooklyn 3, New York, U.S.A. Price 30 Dollars, postage extra. Write direct to Mr R. Murphy please, NOT to Frank.

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We acknowledge with grateful thanks the following donations to our printing machine fund:- Frank Grant 5/- Alma Johnson 4/- Bill Bell 10/- Mrs Miroli 5/- Dennis Dyer 10/- Kit Manners 10/- Joe Hall 10/- Frank Hatwell 5/- Les Phythian 10/- Tommy McCall 5/- Total donation to the Fund now total £11-18-0 for which we are very grateful. The total amount outstanding is £30-13-3, so you can see we still have a long way to go before we are free of this burden.

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We extend an especially warm welcome to the following new club members: Mr JIM GILLESPIE, 28 Merton Road, Slough, Bucks.

Mr TOMMY McCALL 40, Rutland Avenue, Walkergate, N-on-T 6.

Miss JANICE BROADBRIDGE, 349 Nelson Road, Whitton, Middx.

Mr DON WOOLLAND, 151, Cauldwell Lane, West Monkseaton,

Whitley Bay.

Mr ARTHUR WILLIAMS, Orleans Villa, 68 Palatine Rd, Blackpool

Mr LES PHYTHIAN, 10, Watchyard Lane, Formby, nr Liverpool.

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Contributed by PAT SULLIVAN

Dear Members,

Well, this month finds Bing fine following his recent recuperation from his operation. He appeared this week on Bob Hope's TV Special in a brief walk-on role.

Here's a February 'clip' with some news on the new home that Bing and Kathy are building near La Paz in Mexico.

Kathy talking: "He (Bing) is much better now, and it was his idea that I take the trip to Mexico with Mrs Bill Morrow to buy some furniture in Mexico City and to see how our place was getting on. Builders in Mexico always tell you that everything will be finished pronto", she laughed. "That can mean 1962, 1963 or 1964. But I am leaving February 10th, and Bing joins me February 16th. There are no roads to our hacienda. You can get there by boat or else fly in", said Mrs B.

Biggest headlines this past month belonged to 2-year-old Mary Frances Crosby who passed her Red Cross beginners swimming test in Los Angeles. The director of the National Red Cross said that no-one had ever before passed the test so young!

Some time ago I mentioned a sing-along LP that Bing recorded for distribution to children's camps in America. I understand now that it may be available to private parties. If interested contact Gary Kay, Sales Director, Camp Sing-A-Long Inc, 200 West 57th Street, New York 19.

Gary Crosby opened in New York in February and is doing extremely well. Here's a review: "GARY'S GREAT..by John David Griffin Who says famous fathers very rarely have talented children? The proof of the pudding is Gary Crosby, Bing's extremely talented son, who opened at the International the other night and tore down the house. Milton Berle introduced Gary at his opening show, and after watching and listening to the talented, eldest Crosby son, rushed backstage and invited him to appear on his next NBC special. Sitting at the same table with Milton during the show, I watched his reactions to Gary's singing and gagging, and Mr T.V. must have turned to me 30 times during the show to say "This kid is sensational. Wish Bing were here. He'd be so proud of him". And I agree, Bing should be bubbling! The most nervous person at the show was Gary's gorgeous wife, who very ably decorated a singside table".

The Crosby Brothers, referring to the three younger boys, are currently appearing in Frank Sinatra's movie, "Sergeants Three". Their new record release is "Tennessee Twist" and "Itty Bitty Tear". Only bad news is that Lindsay's son, born prematurely on February 23rd, died an hour after delivery. His wife Barbara is said to be in good condition.

Best Wishes from PAT.

EDITORIAL NOTE: As we go to press a further communication from Pat states that Bing has cancelled his May telecast because of ill health. He is resting up at his home in Mexico trying to gain back his weight...lost as a result of the operation.

THE EDITOR WRITES TO YOU!

Dear Readers,

This issue of Crosby Post may appear to you to have a rather depressed air about it in spite of one or two very fine articles of interest. But the fact is this: there may have to be certain changes in the management of this magazine, and indeed, the British Crosby Society as well! I can only speak for myself, naturally, but I have heard rumours which I can take to be based on facts.

Speaking from the Editorial point of view, I feel I ought to tell you that I have felt for some little time that I must resign from my post as editor. I do not want to do this. I enjoy most of the work involved, but after all it is only a HOBBY. And I do feel that a hobby should give one pleasure and should not become a source of worry. Running this magazine is a worry. And it is mainly due to lack of interest from it's readers, and grumbles. It is one thing to have a genuine grumble, but not to grumble and moan about things that do not quite please one without offering some form of assistance. I shake hands with an honest critic, but I can't stomach the grumblers.

The lack of interest in society affairs has been a big worry to Frank, I have known this for a long time, and it has also been a problem to me in connection with the magazine. I have made a bit of a song about all those members who just rely on a few of the stalwarts who assist us by writing articles, etc. Now I happen to have on my files enough material from professional sources to fill Crosby Post for about twelve issues! But this is not quite what we want. The contents of each issue should be mainly written by members of the society. Just think for one minute: if each member were to send in ONE article each year we should very rarely have to resort to the professional writers! But I've asked you, and only one or two have chosen to oblige.

Take the PHOTO SECTION. Did members come forward to help Frank make this a success in the numbers required? Oh, no! And as you have already learnt, Frank had to cancel the scheme. I myself feel that a great number of you did not realise what a great idea this photo section could have been if it had been allowed to live.

But the greatest example of this curse 'lack of interest' has just been pointed out to me in a letter from Frank. AND IT DID REALLY SHAKE ME FOR SIX! You will remember that Frank had arranged to hold a society meeting at his home on March 11th last? (over)

Well, as you will read on another page in a report from Frank, the meeting from the attendance angle was a wash-out! The trouble that Mrs Murphy and her husband must have gone to in providing the comfort and refreshments does not appear to be worth a tinkers cuss!

And I am very depressed about it. Now don't start all shouting at once about the difficulties of the journey. That wont wash. I know it is a long way Penzance, and a bit of a hop from the U.S.A., but we have a large number of members living within easy travelling distance to 45 Ferngale Avenue, Wallsend. Naturally enough, if it so happens that most of you were ill, or working, you could not be expected to be there. All I do know, however, is that the whole thing was a pretty poor show, and reflects badly on the whole society.

You know running this society can be hard work. It can be made very bearable if a little encouragement is shown for all the work put into the running affairs of the society. The Officers try to do their best. Speaking for myself, I don't want any flag waving for anything that I have done, or might do in the future. I do it for the pleasure and fun to be got from doing it, and hope my small efforts give a little pleasure to others. But I cannot work miracles. Neither can I get more hours out of any one day. Which is one reason why I cannot get MORE PAGES added to the magazine without taking up a lot of the small amount of spare time I have at my disposal. And as running this magazine happens to be a hobby I refuse to let it encroach on every hour I have to spare. For then if it did, it would become a burden and a bore. Up till now, it has been a pleasure. And as long as I am still in office I hope it will remain so.

But at the moment, the immediate future is uncertain.....

'bye now,

C.A. WESTROPE

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OUR PRESIDENT - FRANK MURPHY BROADCASTS AGAIN !!

On Monday April 3rd, shortly before he and an invited party of Club Members attended the premier of "ROAD TO HONG KONG" at the largest cinema in Newcastle-on-Tyne, the Odeon, at the kind invitation of the Manager Mr C. Wilmot, our President broadcast over the Newcastle wavelength of the B.B.C. Home Service VHF - 261 metres.

In this specially recorded interview which was aptly timed to coincide with the film premier, Frank had the opportunity of Giving Bing, the film, and the Society a wonderful boost. In the interview, special attention was paid to Bing's unique position in the film and recording world.

It is possible that tape recordings of the broadcast will be available to those members who are interested...if YOU are, send Frank a S.A.E for further information re price of tape etc.

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ALTERNATIVE TAKES.....by BOB ROBERTS

For this months alternative takes, Bob Roberts has chosen two great songs Bing recorded with Georgie Hall and Orchestra, November 9th 1934.

LOVE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER MATRIX DLA 72 9.II.34

Take 'A' issued on BrE OI952
Bing sings....."Pardon my lyrical rhapsody - BUT can't you see....."

Take 'B' issued on Decca (USA) 310 *
Bing sings....."Pardon my lyrical rhapsody - can't you see....."

* NOTE Some copies of this disc were pressed from the A Master and some from the B Master.

MAYBE I'M WRONG AGAIN MATRIX DLA 73 9.II.34

Take 'A' issued on BrE OI952
Bing sings....."I still have the thrill....."

Take B' issued on Decca (USA) 309 *
Bing sings....."I still have that thrill....."

* NOTE Some copies of this disc were pressed from the 'A' Master and some from the 'B' Master.

FRANK MURPHY reports on THE CLUB MEETING held on MARCH 11th 1962

The Club meeting at 45 Ferndale Avenue met with the usual terrific response that Club projects seem to meet with these days. Although one doesn't expect members living in the London area to travel so far North for a meeting, one would have thought that such a project would have appealed to some members living in the Midlands and nearer the North. The ironic fact is that it failed to attract some members who live within a few miles of Wallisend, which was particularly disappointing in view of the fact that I had been hoping to announce a series of film shows at my home featuring early Bing films. My friend from Whitley Bay, Don Woolland has been very helpful in this direction, and we have secured a contact who has the equipment and had placed this at our disposal. However, in view of the constant state of apathy which seems to exist in so many of our members, I don't feel like going ahead with any ambitious project such as this. To those members who did make the effort, Alma and I would like to say just how much we enjoyed your company, we had a really wonderful time with you all.

The attendance line-up was John Maughan, Kenneth Robinson, Bill Hall, Mr and Mrs Bill Bell, Mrs and Mr Joe Brady, Larry Rose, Tommy Mc Call. We also had a little Peter Brady and the two junior members of the Bell family who joined up with our own little ones in having quite a time in the TV room next door.

CROSBY CHATTER
by
Leslie Gaylor.

Dear Members,

To start with I expect some of you will have seen the film "Road to Hong Kong" by the time this issue of our journal is in your hands. At the time of writing I personally have no knowledge of any recordings that have been made or any to be issued since my contact at the Crosby Office met with an accident and broke her leg, Bing data has been very short. It appears that Bing is now resting in his Mexico home, according to Pat Sullivan, our very able U.S.A. Correspondent.

I sent Bing a "Get Well" card, and have received a small printed "Thank You" message personally from Bing to thank me for writing to him whilst in Hospital.

Since I mentioned in our last page of "Chatter" that it was unlikely Bing would make any more SINGLE records, a few of you seem very shaken by this news. Well, I fully agree this news is very depressing, but there it is, and I have it in a letter from Bing to this effect. My personal view on the matter is that the present day "music scene" is the cause, Rock an' Roll and new "Rock singers" are the dominating feature these days. Bing himself seems to want to take things very relaxed nowadays; he has been at it so long now that he doesn't put his best foot forward like he once used to do. He has probably had nearly enough, which is dissapointing to us!

There appears to be no news yet regarding the I2 Euopean Songs LP; very strange that this record is so long in coming out. Things may be 'timed' however for its release in America, and I am wondering if the company concerned will issue it after the "Road" film has been widely shown.

I see the I5 Decca Albums are out in America, called "BING-The HollywoodStory", featuring I89 Film Songs from 40 Bing pictures. According to the weekly magazine "DISC", it is probable that Brunswick will issue them here, and also available singly.

"Family Favourites" is on the air each Tuesday, so how about those Record Cards for a "Bing" record, even if you haven't a chance of listening yourself. One of our Australian members Keith Hyde, tells me that a Melbourne Radio Station featured Bing records from 6 am to 6pm exclusively on Saturday March IOth. Also plenty of Bing films have been shown there on TV. IT'S VERY STRANGE that WE cannot have any such films on OUR T.V.

I have been writing to several papers and magazines asking for possible features on Bing, and TIT BITS Editor has notified me he will be printing an article on Bing and Bob, and of the manner in which they get at one another!

HAS ANYONE A COPY OF "LOOKS LIKE A COLD COLD WINTER"
IN GOOD CONDITION FOR SALE.....I have broken my copy!

My Best Wishes To All.

CROZ TALK

by JACK MANNERS
Vice-President.

Hallo, Everyone! Sorry to have missed out last time! I reckon after the excitement of Bing's visit here last year we all feel a little flat at present. But I for one, cannot envisage the Master Singer laying low for long! I am sure he will soon feel the urge to do battle with the film and studio cameras...and let's hope the recording studios, also. After the fine succession of his recent L.P.'s, it would be a disaster for all us Bing lovers should there be too long a lapse before our next treat. There can be no doubt that we Crosby addicts have insatiable appetites..still asking for more after thirty years! But that is where we must place the blame on to Bing! Instead of deteriorating he just goes on like the old "babbling brook". (The last two words will probably revive memories for Cecil!!) I should think that with the recent great work on L.P.'s that Bing has made even more good friends, and if possible many new ones! It is surprising the number of people who say he is singing better than earlier years, although personally I do not much care at which period they prefer or admire most as long as they still praise and buy!

I would like to mention here that Bing must have been very disappointed at not being in full swim at the great Crosby Golf Tournament. Which brings to mind a letter I received from Priscella Kosny, President of the CROSBY BOY'S CLUB, in which she described her visit to Pebble Beach. Phillip and Dennis played some good golf, but Lindsay is not, apparently, too keen on the game, and was also worried about the expected new baby which by the way did not survive. Our sympathies to Lindsay. However, Priscella goes on to say that the 'Boys' treated her and Rosalce Loy and Pat Sullivan real fine. "The more we see and hear the 'Boys' the more we like them" she says. All I can say to that is they are chips off the old block...our Bing! Interesting to note here the girls are making a fine job of the Crosby Boy's Club. Also recently received a nice letter from Rena our "Club Crosby" President, who does a real good job on "BINGANG"..in fact the last two issues have been terrific.....keep it up Rena!!

We must all, I think, be pleased at the improvement of our own "Post" with the covers just great and presentation real good, printing of course is now first class. Only drawback as I see it, is the fact that we cannot afford a larger edition! I keep harping on this to Frank, I suppose I should not as only he knows how the finances of the club go, by which I mean I am no business man. But Frank has to watch things or we'd go to pot!

In a recent letter I received from one of our Pal's, John Fleming, was a newspaper cutting of a column by Herbert Kretzmer which I feel very adequately sums up today's musical tastes. I give you a few quotes from this enlightening column: (OVER)

1. Eight million people are said to have watched and listened to a songwriting tournament called "A Song for Europe". At least seven million of them must have wished an hour later that they had gone to the pictures instead, as song followed song with the impact of a fluffy kitten dropping from a low stool onto a mohair rug!
2. London's Tin Pan Alley has been this week a thoroughfare of despair and Post Mortems!
3. It is no secret that top man Eric Maschwitz was so deeply chilled by the banality of "A Song for Europe" that he has sworn to re-vitalise next years Pop Festival!
4. Britains Pop Trade has been effectively geared to cater for the average teenager!
5. Standards have been upended, judgement has surely gone mad when for instance Alma Cogan reverentially introduced a run-of-the-mill American boy singer named Bobby Rydell as a "great, great artist"!
6. Publishers probably from habit keep crying out for what they call 'quality' songs, but most of them would not know what do with a good song if it hit them on the jawbone!
7. One of Londons top music publishers..David Plutze of Essex Music admitted sadly that if for example Jerome Kern stepped into his office with a new song called "All the Things You Are", Mr Kern would have to be told that the songs chances of success were no more than slight. Since "All the Things You Are" happens to be one of the best light songs written in the last hundred years, it is clear that the decline in songwriting and appreciation has now reached almost total decadence.

Well, folks, I could not agree more with these remarks, otherwise how be it that recent terrific numbers by Bing such as "Gigi", "Second Time Around", "Say one for Me", "Next Time it Happens", could have been cut from the great L.P.'s of recent months. We cannot blame the disc companies in the financial respect for not exploiting these singles, for as everyone knows the market only caters for one taste these days! And now it seems we have another bogey to contend with, namely, the TWIST, which convinces me we have reached an all time low as these gyrations along with the rock-n-roll antics should be confined to the gymnasium without the music(?). Had an interesting talk with my daughter Joan after discussing the present trend of "pop". She remarked "It's not the singer or the song they listen to or want these days, it's just the "beat", and most of them could not care less who was supposed to be singing the words.. it could even be Bing, they would not know or care". I did not quite agree with her, but on consideration must admit she has a point!

Some interesting facts about

Panama and Frank's "THE ROAD TO HONG KONG"

gleaned from all sorts of reliable sources by C.A. Westrop.

Bing full with nostalgia, the new Panama and Frank's screen entertainment "The Road to Hong Kong" features of course the ever popular Bing and his partner Bob Hope. This is the seventh musical comedy road the two boys have travelled down the years, and all their talents (including skirt-chasing!) are combined with a rocket trip to outer space!

The story concerns two double-dealing vaudeville dancers, and the film opens with them sing a number called "Teamwork". Later we are in Hong Kong where American Security agents are mighty worried about reports that the Russians have a rocket orbiting the moon. And who do we find inside that very same rocket? Why of course, our old pals Bing and Bob, blithely singing "It's the only way to travel!"

The film has everything, including beautiful women like English Joan Collins and American Dorothy Lamour, real (honest!) Chinese dolls in slit-to-the-thigh cheongsams. Oh yes, there are spics, mad formulas, monkeys, secret submarines, cricket players. And if you want to know what cricket has to do with this hilarious film you will just have to pay your money to find out. Howsoever, the film ends with our two pals and Joan Collins being shot into space and to land on a distant planet with no hope of returning. Are THEY worried? No! Except for one little concern. How to share the girl between them.

This latest "Road" is Bing's 60th film, and Bob's 42nd. Two of show business' best known personages, they have grown rich and famous, yet continue to work as hard as beginners because they love it. And love it they most certainly do...I could see that on my visits to the studios during the making of the film. "A man just can't do nothing" said Bing. And Bob without an audience is impossible. "But I'M not a full-time comedian", he said, "I take ten or fifteen minutes off sometimes."

Norman Panama and Melvin Frank, the writing-directing-producing team, have been collaborating for more than a quarter of a century as screen writers. They began producing with "Mr Blandings Builds His Dream House". Since then they have co-written, produced and directed "The Reformrr and the Redhead", "Strictly Dishonourable", "Knock on Wood", "Facts of Life", among others. Their careers have been closely connected with Crosby's and Hope's from the beginning. They wrote comedy material fo Hope, wrote his early film "My Favourite Blonde", and wrote Crosby and Hope's "Road to Utopia" and Crosby's "White Christmas". Although Panama and Frank write together, they alternate with directing and producing. As Frank directed their last effort and Panama produced, "The Road to Hong Kong" became Panama's film to direct and Frank's to produce.

(over)

(15)

FACTS ABOUT "ROAD TO HONG KONG" continued from previous page

"Road to Hong Kong" started out to be a comedy about London Palladium performers, which probably accounts for it being made in England. But before the project was written, rocket hi-jinks were to dominate the action. Although our singing and gagging friends do go to Hong Kong, they have to orbit the earth first...by mistake!

Six musical numbers written by Jimmy Van Heusen and Sammy Kahn are featured in the picture. A note of interest is that Sheila Meyers did the choreography.

It has already been noted in a previous issue of Crosby Post of one unusual feature of this production. It has been "tailored" to fit American, British and Foreign audiences! Two versions of topical jokes were filmed, one American, one British, and special scenes shot for easy dubbing of sub-titles.

Sets specially built for the production include : an entire Hong Kong street, rocket ships, submarines, underwater headquarters, a "harem", a rocket launching laboratory, night club, a grand lama's study, and a so-called "hall of total recollection". Special effects department no doubt "went to town" providing the automatic banana-feeding device which stuffs banana after banana into Crosby's and Hope's mouths during their flight. This writer would have given his "all" to have seen this mirth provoking scene shot later hearing some stories from people employed on the shooting! It was a great pleasure, however, not only to see Bing and Bob in action on several occasions, but also to watch the camera work of Jack Hildyard. This fine exponent of camera art won an Academy Award for "Bridge on the River Kwai". END.

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from our PRESIDENT'S MAIL BAG !

Dear Frank,

We are mailing you, for the club room, a set of the color posters on the Decca set of 15 L.P.'s.

Re the photos for the Odeon staff, we are having some new ones made in color; so I shall mail them to you after the 20th.

Regards,

LARRY (signed)

Larry Crosby.

(Our deepest thanks to Larry for his kind co-operation in sending the great color photos of Bing for the staff of the Odeon cinema in Newcastle. On receiving an official invitation to attend the premier of Road to Hong Kong at the above cinema, Frank wrote to Larry suggesting that this would be a nice gesture from both the Crosby Office and the Society. Larry's interest and subsequent compliance to our request ties further the wonderful bond of friendship between the Club and the Crosby Office.)

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HAVE YOU ENROLLED A NEW MEMBER TO OUR SOCIETY ?

(16)

My apologies to Eric G, and Joan for not sending a Christmas Card but as we knew they were moving house...well! Also Bob and I know I keep promising to 'phone, but I will one day...sorry Bob and Vera!
~~I would like to appeal to Charlie Tupper to drop me a line, I~~ know I am guilty of losing his new address, but only hope he will remedy this matter!

By the time we are all reading (I hope) these lines*, the film that the two heroes Bing and Bob made in England, the name escapes me for the moment I know it's something to do with the far east*, should be on it's travels around London, and I hope everyone gets to seeing it. Probably it will be the last of the 'Road' films, although if it is successful it could lead to more discussions! Now the name of the film can't be "Bali" or "Rio" or even Zanzibar...wait though, I'll have a look at my back numbers of Crosby Post* Ah, yes! that's right, a clever drawing of two Chinese golfers...must be Hong Kong!** So lets hope the Road to Shepperton and Hong Kong have been the means of making the film of the year!!

May I say "hallo" to recent new members, and apologise to our new friend Les Phythian for not answering his last very nice letter. I did appreciate your gesture, Les, and hope you are pleased you joined!

Now that the long winter is nearly over I do hope to see a few members during the coming months, one way or another, it's mighty tough travelling in the winter!

Cheerio, All,

JACK.

Editors Note: * What do you mean "we are all reading (I hope)" ? Of course some of us can read as well as you! We have even sold our magnifying glasses now we have the new printing machine!

* Glad to know you keep your copies of Crosby Post.... save 'em for twenty years or so and you might sell them for scrap paper and finish paying off the debt on the said printing machine. No one else is doing much about it!!

**I have advised United Artists booking manager to send you their postal course on "The Study of Film Publicity" and 600 purple printed copies of the words "HONG KONG" Anyway, glad my humble drawing wasn't wasted!

.....
The Editor was very surprised and disappointed to see the very poor "stills" displayed in several cinemas showing the 'Road' film. They were no better, and in certain comparisons, worse than any used for second feature films. Surely "real photos" are not all that expensive, even these days, and certainly help to set the seal of quality on any film. But those displayed for the new Bing and Bob

opus are not worthy of being called "stills" and are an insult to the cameraman. But this question of front-of-house publicity seems to have dropped in favour with the cinema bosses. A little more money spent on attractive publicity would be a better thing than getting all het up over "skittle" alleys and "bingo" games! But it takes a "born" cinema boss to run a cinema....and they're VERY FEW AND FAR BETWEEN these days!

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THE DECCA RECORD COMPANY LTD.

21st March
1962

Dear Mr Murphy,

You are probably already aware that American Decca have released a set of 15 LPs containing songs and material associated with Crosby films.

I thought that you and your readers would be interested to know that it is intended to release these discs over here on the Brunswick label, under the collective title 'Bing's Hollywood', and that this will probably be during July.

Yours Sincerely,

Derek Lewis
Record Sales.

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PROJECT D.C.P. is open to all club members who own tape recorders - we have recently learned that about 600 tracks by Bing are available - all radio material dating from 1937 to 1946. Interested? We bet you are! Then send SAE to 45 Ferndale Avenue, Wallsend for further particulars of this tremendous scheme.

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Will all Members please note the following details. When purchasing records from fellow members, it is NOT EXPECTED that purchasers should have to pay for BOXES or PACKING of records. Anyone selling records can obtain ample supply of suitable material from their local dealer who will be pleased to dispose of it, without charge. SO TAKE NOTE...DO NOT PAY FOR PACKING ON RECORDS YOU BUY FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE BRITISH CROSBY SOCIETY.

THIS IS AN OFFICIAL NOTICE.

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(18)

It is important that ALL material for the JUNE number of this magazine should reach the Editor not later than MAY 20th. Otherwise, we cannot guarantee insertion.

FROM KEN SYKORA MS.

26th January 1962

Dear Frank,

Thank you very much for your last letter and for your good wishes.

I certainly am still interested in receiving and reading 'Crosby Post', and I am still hoping at some time that it will be possible to bring Crosby Cameo into some regular spot. I keep pestering the high-ups about this, perhaps one day they will give in.

Perhaps you heard on Desert Island Discs this week that I did take a Crosby with me when Roy Plomley sent me to that famous island.

Please accept my kind regards and my good wishes for 1962.

Yours Sincerely, KEN SYKORA.

THE ROADS a film cameo by TED LAKER

A recent treat at a local cinema, was a revival showing of the 1952 "ROAD TO BALI", with of course as usual the great team of Crosby Hope and Lamour. The mixture, as everyone who has seen one of the 'Road' films (and who hasn't?) know, follows the same formula as the previous successes. Bing and Bob meeting up with queen of the Sarong Dorothy Lamour, and chasing her through lavish sets, trying desperately to win her favours!!! Crosby usually portraying the smooth talking slick son-man type, as in the "Road to Utopia" with the magic game of "Ghosts"! Or the Morocco film where the unwilling Hope is sold to a prosperous looking merchant for a bundle of shekels! But usually all is peaceful by the time the closing scenes have been reached.

The main about all the 'Road' films is the wonderful sense of team spirit that exists amongst the principle players, with nobody trying to steal the picture from others. The 'Road' pictures have not been noted as song laden vehicles, though some good ones have certainly been featured, and still Crosby "standards" to this very day. Songs such as "Moonlight becomes You", "Welcome to my Dreams", "You don't have to know the Language", and "It's Anybody's Spring" are just a few I can think of at this moment.

With the "Road to Hong Kong" now going it's rounds, Crosby addicts have some more pleasures in store. I was pleased to see that Dorothy Lamour, though not up front in her rightful place, was given a part in the picture. I'm sure most of us will agree that a "ROAD" film without Dot being present, wouldn't be quite the same!

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(19)

Frank writes! " I do hope Cecil will forgive my slipping this extra page in, and I know that you'll all want to read these few added items of interest, so here goes;

BING'S FIRST DISC ON BRITISH DECCA 45-F 21452 (Project records Inc' Production)

Bing Crosby & Joan Collins "LET'S NOT BE SENSIBLE" both from
Bing Crosby & Bob Hope "TEAMWORK"

Top side of this great new single from "THE ROAD TO HONG - KONG"
Decca is for me, "Teamwork" which has both greats at the top of their form, typical humorous jibe from Bob as Bing attempts a high note is, 'That's quite a stab, from old flab' and the whole thing goes with a wonderful swing;

I'm sure that ~~no~~ whoever wrote the musical score could have found a better ballad in the store than 'Let's not be sensible' which though it has some beautiful Crosby moments, just doesn't seem to be able to get off the ground, in the film, Bing fights hard to make a success of this lone opportunity he has of singing in the old familiar style, but for me the material just isn't there;

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A
British Crosby
Society
Exclusive

Your opportunity to purchase a PLAQUE OF BING CROSBY

By special arrangement with our Hon Vice Pres' Mr Larry Crosby and the Crosby office in Hollywood we have been offered facilities to purchase the above at 98 cents each which together with postage etc should work out at about 10/- per plaque, if you'd like one, or more, send me a S.A.E together with your request and on acceptance of our order by the Crosby office you will then be required to forward your remittance to me (Frank Murphy) closing date for orders is APRIL 30th Please note also that after the final order has been mailed to America, no further orders can be accepted for these unique plaques;

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In Melody Maker April 14th issue pop star John Leyton paid a surprise tribute to Bing whom he described as a 'legendary figure'

On Saturday April 14th it was nice to hear Bing's great Irish favorite TWO SHILLELAGH O' SULLIVAN on "Childrens Choice2"

BOB FARNON has recorded a DECCA album of the musical score for "The Road To Hong Kong" it was waxed for Bing's own disc company PROJECT RECORDS

Eagerly awaited is Hon member MICHAEL HOLIDAY'S album "MIKE SALUTES BING" Michael who is back on the BBC with his popular series ; - "HOLIDAY WITH STRINGS" has a new single out this month titled "I Don't want you to see me Cry" - we liked the MelodyMaker report of the first show on the Light programme. "It's one thing to be influenced by a singer, but...on "Can I forget You", for instance, Mike sounded so much like Bing it wasn't true;